



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

April 28, 2006

Dear Chairman Hardy:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to you and the Policy Committee of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging on the preliminary report of the Conference.

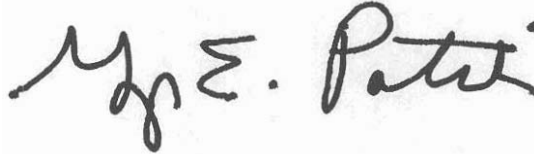
Before sharing the enclosed comments, I want to thank you, other members of the Policy Committee, Advisory Committee and staff associated with the White House Conference on Aging for your diligent work in planning and conducting the Conference. As you well know, White House Conferences on Aging hold a special place in history for the significant contributions to aging programs and policy attributed to Conferences deliberations and subsequent reports to Congress. I am sure that everyone who participated in the 2005 Conference hopes and expects the same will be true this time as well. We have an opportunity to address issues of importance to the elders of today, as well as tomorrow, and therefore the final report produced from this Conference must provide a meaningful framework that will guide the changes and improvements we must make to insure continued improvement in the lives of this nation's elderly population.

In New York, in advance of the White House Conference on Aging, I asked Lieutenant Governor Mary O. Donohue to oversee pre-Conference planning and to provide guidance and leadership to the very well distinguished and qualified New York Delegation at the Conference in Washington. Aside from convening a series of eight regional pre-White House Conference on Aging events across the State, the Lieutenant Governor met with the entire New York State Delegation on two occasions before the December Conference. The New York Delegation, the second largest delegation at the Conference, worked very hard to make sure that it represented the diverse interest and concerns of citizens from across our great State. The Delegation, aside from working together before, and during the Conference, is continuing its work to address issues of importance to aging policy here in New York State, and beyond.



As firsthand participants at the White House Conference on Aging, I asked Lieutenant Governor Donohue to review the preliminary report with the Delegation and to share their comments and perspective with me. I have outlined the key points that have been conveyed to me in the attached document and, on behalf of the New York State Delegation, ask you to consider these important points as you continue to work towards completing the final report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. E. Pateri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a distinct "Pateri" at the end.

Dorcas Hardy
Chairman, Policy Committee
White House Conference on Aging
4350 East West Highway, 3rd Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814

cc: Honorable Mary O. Donohue
New York State Delegates

Enclosure

NYS DELEGATION COMMENTS ON PRELIMINARY WHITE CONFERENCE ON AGING REPORT

- As reflected in the voting by Delegates at the White House Conference on Aging, reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, as soon as possible after the Conference, is of paramount importance. The New York State Delegation fully supports this Resolution and recommends that it be made prominent in the final report of the Conference. Now so, more than ever, the basic principles and program and policy structure contained in the Act need to be reinforced to address ever-increasing needs. In addition, the Delegation believes the final report of this White House Conference on Aging must include recognition that funding associated with the programs included in the Older Americans Act must be in line with changes in the nation's population.
- White House Conferences on Aging are watershed events that shape discussions and activities for a decade. Given this, the NYS Delegation recommends that the results from all discussions at the Conference be reviewed and, as appropriate, included in the final report of the Conference. In particular, they suggest that outcomes from the many "implementation workshops" held at the Conference be summarized and included in the final report. Delegates spent many hours discussing implementation strategies related to the Resolutions identified by the Policy Committee and the specific ideas included in those discussions provide important detail to Congress, the Administration and others who will be acting on the outcomes from the Conference in years to come.
- As the second largest Delegation at the Conference, NYS Delegates felt very strongly that a number of the Resolutions, while not included in the Top Ten listing you provided, should receive priority attention in the final report. These Resolutions include:
 - No. 4: Establish Principles to Strengthen Social Security;
 - No. 61: Promote the Integration of Health and Aging Services to Improve Access and Quality of Care for Older Americans; and
 - No. 34: Improve the Health and Quality of Life of Older Americans Through Disease Management and Chronic Care Coordination.
- In addition, the New York Delegation believes very strongly that disaster preparedness and planning must play an important role at all levels of the public and private sector and, therefore, the final report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging should include a specific recommendation to the President and Congress to take steps to strengthen and fund activities in this area.
- Because of the wording of some of the Resolutions presented to Delegates at the Conference, Resolutions that were somewhat duplicative in subject tended to split voting and, therefore, important issues did not receive priority (Top 10 or Top 50) designation. The NYS Delegation recommends that the final report make some note of this and insure that these important issues are highlighted and receive priority attention. In particular,

the New York State Delegation believes that Resolutions Nos. 19 and 7 address similar and very important issues and deserve priority recognition in the final report of the Conference:

- No.7: Strengthen Law Enforcement Efforts at the Federal, State and Local Level to Investigate and Prosecute Cases of Elder Financial Crime; and
 - No. 19: Create a National Strategy for Promoting Elder Justice Through the Prevention and Prosecution of Elder Abuse.
- The New York State Delegation strongly believes that the final report of the Conference should include a recommendation that some process be put in place to monitor the achievement of progress related to the Resolutions and Implementation Strategies included in the final report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. I want to emphasize that the Conference will provide a framework for a ten-year agenda. It is important to all to insure continued efforts are made to see that the thoughts, concerns and hopes of all those participating in the Conference and all those they represent are acted upon by Congress and federal Administrations.
- The NYS Delegation also believes that recognizing and addressing diversity in policies and programs designed to assist elders is very important and, given the cross-cutting nature of this issue, it should be recognized as such in the final report of the Conference. Making sure our current and future policies, programs and services address the diversity of the population in our nation would be a significant outcome from this White House Conference on Aging.
- Recognizing the task before you and the Policy Committee to comprehensively reflect all of the outcomes from this White House Conference on Aging and to do so within the timeframes legislatively mandated, the NYS Delegation strongly recommends the White House Conference on Aging receive appropriate resources to complete the important work of finalizing the report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. This is no easy task, and, without adequate resources, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to review and refine much of the substance of discussions that transpired at the Conference.